

Serial No. 10/500,204

Attorney Docket No. PD010078

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Method for ~~automatic~~ detection of data types for data type dependent processing ~~by a technical device~~, comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a data file,
- b) analyzing said received data file to determine whether the format of said received data file can be detected,
- c) after detecting the format of the received data file, using said detected format for evaluating ~~a whether said data type of each of at least two data items of different data type wherein the at least two data items are comprised in said received data file and are at least one~~ either of:
 - an essence data type being defined to be either data which is interpretable by a device as a link pointing to reference data but with no data referring to said link or data which the device is unable to interpret as a link,
 - a metadata subtype being defined as data with interpretable by the device as a link pointing to reference data and any essence data referring to said link or of
 - ~~essence data being defined as data without an attached link pointing to reference data~~ a container data type containing at least one of: metadata an essence data item and another different data item of any data type container,
- d) evaluating for each of the at least two data items whether ~~a the~~ device is able to interpret ~~said metadata or the respective~~ essence data for reproducing a physical representation of the data not interpretable as a link or the linked reference data being said respective essence data said received data so as to indicate that the ~~received~~ corresponding data item is either of a physical data type, if the device is able to interpret the respective essence data, or of an abstract data type, and

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e) supplying the result of said evaluations to the device for data type dependent processing of each of said at least two ~~received~~ data items.

2. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the received~~ for essence data being evaluated as interpretable by said device for reproducing a physical representation, the respective data item is also indicated ~~whether~~ with the format type of said ~~received~~ interpretable essence data if the format type is one of a number of specified format types.

3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~for essence data being evaluated as~~ not interpretable by said device for reproducing a physical representation the respective data item is indicated as being in a text format if said not interpretable essence data is detected as being text.

4. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said device is a data sorting device, a database management system or a data content browser.

Claims 5-12 (cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein said interpretation by said device ~~for reproducing a physical representation~~ is displaying said ~~essence~~ data as a picture.